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PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM:

Background and Political Considerations

This paper was prepared by the Division of Near Eastern Affairs of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs of the Department of State. After reviewing the background of the problem, and the action taken to date, the paper analyzes American interests in the problem, as well as those of the United Nations and certain of its member states. It concludes that both substantial repatriation to Israel and substantial resettlement in the Arab states are required for solution of the problem; that continuing outside assistance will be required after the present relief program terminates, and that such assistance should be extended under the auspices of the United Nations; that further aid should be based on the principle of work relief rather than direct relief to the maximum extent possible; and that, since solution of the refugee problem is inseparable from the problem of the area's economic development, any program for solution of the former should take into account the legitimate economic development aspirations of the countries concerned.

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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